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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND



WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

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Weekly
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The WIR in Brief

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Space

MOST RECENT INTERCEPTS OF SOVIET SPACE VEHICLE TRANSMISSIONS

No 1964-launched payloads transmitting.
NEW PROPULSION COMBINATION USED FOR
TRIPLE-PAYLOAD LAUNCH OF 21 FEBRUARY
May figure in launches of utilitarian-type
vehicles in coming months.
COSMOS 67 DE-ORBITED ROUTINELY ON
REV 128

Sixth photorec vehicle this year.

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to the appeal

COVER: ICBMs in Moscow parade of
9 May. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38,
and 39 of this issue are blank.

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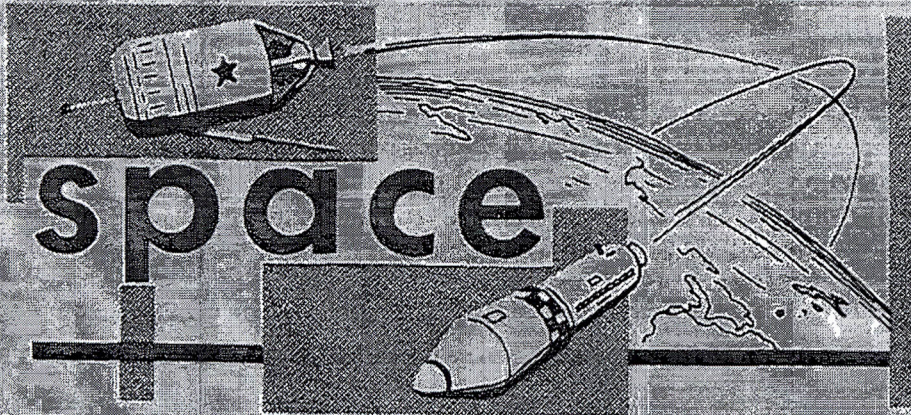
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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Most Recent Intercepts of Soviet Space Vehicle Transmissions

Following is a 25 May listing of the most recently reported intercepts of transmissions from Soviet space vehicles which may still be active:

<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Date of Launch</u>	<u>Signal Characteristics</u>	<u>Date of Most Recent Intercept</u>
Cosmos 53	30 Jan 65		
Cosmos 55	21 Feb 65		
Cosmos 58	26 Feb 65		
Cosmos 61	15 Mar 65		
Cosmos 62	15 Mar 65		
Cosmos 63	15 Mar 65		
Molniya 1	23 Apr 65		
Cosmos 67	25 May 65		

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WIR

One vehicle -- Zond 2, a Mars probe -- has been dropped since publication of the last list (WIR 19/65), and one -- Cosmos 67 -- has been added. The latter will probably be de-orbited before this WIR is distributed.

All the above intercepts were transmitted by vehicles launched this year; all Soviet payloads launched in previous years and still in orbit apparently have ceased transmitting.

(Various ELINT sensors)

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New Propulsion Combination Used for Triple-Payload Launch of 21 February

The Soviets to date have used their first ICBM, the SS-6, for almost all of their space launches from the Tyuratam Missile Test Range. The most recent exception, [redacted] is a new propulsion system used for the 21 February launch of Cosmoes 54, 55 & 56 and the 15 March launch of Cosmoes 61, 62 & 63. Although [redacted] was received during the first Soviet triple-payload launch (Cosmoes 38, 39 & 40) of 18 August 1964, it appears reasonable to assume that the same propulsion system was used on that occasion.

The new vehicle is of tandem, 2-stage design. The first stage more closely resembles the SKEAN/SS-5 IRBM than any other known Soviet missile. The second stage appears to be an essentially new stage, able to restart in orbit. This new propulsion system, FTD estimates, could put a useful payload of about 3500 pounds into a 100-n.m. circular orbit. Actual payloads in orbit probably totaled much less than 3500 pounds, at least for the Cosmos 54-55-56 launch.

The new propulsion system was probably devised to be used with a new class of utilitarian Soviet satellites in the intermediate weight range -- for communications, weather, oceanographic, navigation, or geodetic purposes -- which will probably appear in increasing numbers in coming months. Heretofore, most Soviet space payloads have either been heavyweights in the 10,000 to 15,000-pound weight range or relatively small vehicles in the 300- to 500-pound range. The heavyweights include the manned Vostoks and Voskhods, the recoverable biosatellites of 1960 and 1961, the recoverable Cosmos photorec satellite launched from Tyuratam, and the parking-orbit platforms for injection of lunar and interplanetary probes. The lightweights have been, primarily, the research-type Cosmoes launched from Kapustin Yar (KY). The heavyweights were all launched by the SS-6, the lightweights by a relatively small 2-stage vehicle. The SS-6 would be uneconomical to use with the new utilitarian satellites, the KY vehicle would be inadequate.

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The restartable upper stage of the new propulsion system would also appear to be specially suited to utilitarian satellites, affording possibly the capability to separate multiple payloads at desired intervals in space or to make adjustments in orbital parameters.

(FTD; NORAD)

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Cosmos 67 De-Orbited Routinely on Rev 128

Cosmos 67, which the Soviets launched from Tyuratam at about 1050Z, 25 May, was de-orbited on Revolution 128 and probably impacted in the USSR at about 1031-1036Z, 2 June 1965, after nearly 8 days in orbit. This is the sixth photoreconnaissance satellite launched by the Soviets this year, and the first this year to have an orbital inclination to the Equator of 51 degrees.

(SPADATS; NORAD)

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